

Claims

Please substitute the following claim set for that currently under examination.

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A method of inducing a T-cell response to a tumor which overexpresses mesothelin relative to normal tissue from which it is derived, said method comprising:

administering to a patient who has said tumor or who has had said tumor removed, a composition comprising a *Listeria monocytogenes* bacterium which expresses a first polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin, wherein the epitope binds to an allelic form of MHC class I which is expressed by the patient, whereby a T-cell response to mesothelin is induced, wherein the epitope is selected from the group consisting of: SLLFLLFSL (SEQ ID NO: 1); VLPLTVAEV (SEQ ID NO: 2); ELAVALAQK (SEQ ID NO: 3); ALQGGGPPY (SEQ ID NO: 4); FYPGYLCSL (SEQ ID NO: 5); and LYPKARLAF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

27.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A method of inducing a T-cell response to a pancreatic tumor which overexpresses mesothelin relative to normal tissue from which it is derived, said method comprising:

administering to a patient who has said tumor or who has had said tumor removed, a composition comprising a *Listeria monocytogenes* bacterium which expresses a first polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin, wherein the epitope binds to an allelic form of MHC class I which is expressed by the patient, whereby a T-cell response to mesothelin is induced, wherein the composition is administered in sufficient amount to keep the patient tumor-free greater than 60 months in patients who exhibit an increase in delayed type hypersensitivity to autologous tumor cells after administration of the composition.

39-114. (Cancelled)

115. (Currently amended) A method of inducing a T-cell response to a tumor which overexpresses mesothelin relative to normal tissue from which it is derived, said method comprising:

administering to a patient who has said tumor or who has had said tumor removed, a composition comprising a *Listeria monocytogenes* bacterium which expresses a first polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin, wherein the epitope binds to an allelic form of MHC class I which is expressed by the patient, whereby a T-cell response to mesothelin is induced, wherein the first polypeptide comprises epitopes SLLFLLFSL (SEQ ID NO: 1); VLPLTVAEV (SEQ ID NO: 2); ELAVALAQK (SEQ ID NO: 3); ALQGGGPPY (SEQ ID NO: 4); FYPGYLCSL (SEQ ID NO: 5); and LYPKARLAF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

116-121. (Cancelled)

122. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the first polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin is from 8 to 25 residues in length.

123. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the first polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin is from 8 to 25 residues in length.

124. (New) The method of claim 122 wherein the first polypeptide is fused to a **second** polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin that is from 8 to 25 residues in length.

125. (New) The method of claim 123 wherein the first polypeptide is fused to a **second** polypeptide comprising an MHC Class I-binding epitope of mesothelin that is from 8 to 25 residues in length.

126. (New) The method of claim 115 wherein the first polypeptide consists of epitopes SLLFLLFSL (SEQ ID NO: 1); VLPLTVAEV (SEQ ID NO: 2); ELAVALAQK (SEQ ID NO: 3); ALQGGGPPY (SEQ ID NO: 4); FYPGYLCSL (SEQ ID NO: 5); and LYPKARLAF (SEQ ID NO: 6).